

## Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 DHA-02 MCT-01 IO-13 AID-05 SCS-03

SCA-01 SAM-01 EUR-12 ORM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /107 W

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R 081322Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6998

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: JEWISH GROUP REPUDIATES ANTI-SEMITISM IN ARGENTINA

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5752

1. THE DELEGATION OF ARGENTINE-ISRAELI ASSOCIATIONS (DAIA) ISSUED A STATEMENT SATURDAY (SEPT 5), ITS STRONGEST TO DATE, REPUDIATING WHAT IT CALLED A "REPEATED AND SYSTEMATIC CRIMINAL CAMPAIGN OF ANTI-SEMITISM" AND CALLED UPON BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC OPINION TO OPPOSE ATTACKS UPON THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. THE STATEMENT FOLLOWED A RECENT ACCELERATION IN ATTACKS UPON JEWISH ESTABLISHMENTS, INCLUDING FRIDAY'S (SEPT. 4) BOMBING OF A JEWISH SCHOOL IN FLORES AND A SYNAGOGUE IN DOWNTOWN BUENOS AIRES.

2. AT A DINNER IN HIS HONOR THURSDAY (SEPT 2), NEW ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL ENRIQUE ROS TOLD HIS JEWISH AUDIENCE THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA SALUTED THE EFFORTS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN ARGENTINA. ROS ADDED THAT IN ISRAELI HE WOULD BE "NOT ONLY AMBASSADOR FROM ARGENTINA BUT THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL JEWS ON ARGENTINE SOIL."

3. 3. THE RUMORED OFFICIAL BAN ON PRO-NAZI AND ANTI-SEMITIC

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PUBLICATIONS DID NOT MATERIALIZE LAST WEEK, AS ANTICIPATED BY

DAIA OFFICIALS TO EMBOFF (SEE REFTTEL). SUNDAY'S BA HERALD (SEPT 5) QUESTIONED THE WISDOM OF A BAN, SAYING THAT WHILE SOME LIBERALS MIGHT APPLAUD SUCH A MOVE, THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST POLITICAL CENSORSHIP STILL APPLY. "SHADY POLITICAL MOVEMENTS SEEM TO GET ALONG JUST AS WELL IN CLANDESTINITY AS IN THE OPEN." THE HERALD SAID. IT ADDED THAT SPECIAL LAWS AGAINST NAZIS MAY TURN OUT TO BE MORE OF AN ENCOURAGEMENT THAN A DETRIMENT.

4. COMMENT: WITH THE DAIA'S EMOTIONAL APPEAL TO PUBLIC OPINION AND GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, THE JEWISH COMMUNITY HAS OPENLY SOUNDED ITS ALARM AT THE RECENT UPSURGE IN ANTI-SEMITIC HARASSMENT. ALTHOUGH TO OUR KNOWLEDGE NO JEWS HAVE DIED OR BEEN INJURED IN THE BOMBINGS, THE DAIA CLAIMS MATERIAL COST HAS BEEN HIGH AND IT CLEARLY HOPES TO HALT THE ANTI-SEMITIC TREND BEFORE MORE SERIOUS DAMAGE IS DONE. THE GOA HAS NOT OFFICIALLY RESPONDED TO THE DAIA STATMENT, NOR WERE ROS' FELICITATIONS FROM PRESIDENT VIDELA SEEN AS BEING PARTICULARLY REASSURING TO THE TROUBLED JEWISH COMMUNITY. NEVERTHELESS, IN CHALLENGING THE GOVERNMENT TO CURB EXCESSES AGAINST INNOCENT CITIZENS BY "ANONYMOUS ASSASSINS," THE DAIA HAS NOW ADDED YET ANOTHER VOICE TO RISING PUBLIC PROTEST AGAINST UNCONTROLLED VIOLENCE IN THE COUNTRY.  
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